

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 365

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; ESTABLISHING A VETERANS' COURT TASK FORCE
TO DEVISE A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS'
COURT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--VETERANS'
COURT TASK FORCE--MEMBERSHIP--DUTIES.--

A. By July 1, 2009, the secretary of veterans'
services shall convene a veterans' court task force to devise a
comprehensive strategic plan for the establishment and
operation of a veterans' court within the judicial branch of
state government. The veterans' court task force shall report
on its strategic plan to the appropriate legislative interim
committee by December 1, 2009. The veterans' court task force
shall work in conjunction with New Mexico veterans, the

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underscoring material = new
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1 administrative office of the courts, the judiciary, the New
2 Mexico national guard, the New Mexico behavioral health
3 collaborative, the New Mexico public defenders department, the
4 New Mexico district attorneys association and representatives
5 from other boards, commissions, departments, agencies,
6 authorities and organizations necessary to provide appropriate
7 expertise to devise the strategic plan.

8 B. The strategic plan shall contain recommendations
9 for providing just and constructive interventions for veterans
10 of the United States armed services who break a law as a direct
11 result of or under the influence of post-traumatic stress
12 disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression or substance
13 abuse. The recommendations shall focus on policy solutions
14 that balance public safety needs with veterans' needs for
15 health care and social interventions that will identify and
16 treat post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury,
17 depression and addiction.